SUBJECT NO. 42.

Sinking of wells under Village Improvement Scheme.

Mr. Venkataramiah, Nagamangala taluk.

Summary of discussion.—In dry taluks like Nagamangala not less than Rs. 300 are required to sink a well. The rules under the Village Improvement Scheme require that half this amount should be paid by the villagers who will be benefited by the well. But, in many instances, the villagers are unable either to contribute half the cost or do half the work; in such instances the Government may take up and finish the work and recover the raiyats' share of the cost by easy instalments as a revenue demand and thus accelerate the progress in the programme of well construction.

Reply of Government.—The existing provisions seem adequate.

SUBJECT NO. 43.

Village improvement by compulsory labour.

(1) Mr. Hutchaveere Gowda, Gubbi taluk;

(2) Messrs. Seenappa, Hoskote taluk, Gundu Rao, D. Srikanta Rao and Gurunanja Wodeyar, Devanhalli taluk, and Subba Setti, Devanhalli Municipality, and G. Ramaswamiengar, Hassan taluk;

(3) Messrs. Halappa, Nadig Raghavendrappa, Giriyappa and Gurulingappa, Honnali taluk, and Venkatagiriyappa, Krishnappa, and Adiveppa, Sagar taluk;

(4) Messrs. Addi Nanjunda Setti, Chamrajnagar Municipality and Venkatasamiah, Chamrajnagar taluk; and

(5) Mr. Linge Gowda, Mysore taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Suitable rules may be framed to make the villagers alive to their responsibilities in the matter of village improvement and share in the work ungrudgingly.

(2) The power to levy fines from unwilling villagers in lieu of labour under the Village Improvement Scheme may be given either to the Amildar or the Village Improvement Committee.

(3) The villagers may be insisted upon to devote half a day in a week for the improvement of their villages and the absentees may be made liable to pay one anna or two for their negligence.

(4) The Village Progress Committees constituted under the auspices of the Mysore Economic Conference are really calculated to promote the progress of the people.

The rules state that the villagers should be encouraged to work half a day in every week or to pay one or two annas when they cannot do so. But the above rules are not precise as to what should be done if the villagers refuse to work or to pay the money. Those who are willing to work are influenced by those who do not work. Those who do not work may therefore be compelled to pay cash in lieu of work to be done by them. By this arrangement, real progress can be achieved by the Village Committees.

(5) Village Improvement Committees have been formed in almost every village in the State. Villagers will have to work half a day in every week for carrying out the object of the Committee, *viz.*, village sanitation, formation of inter-village roads, establishment of elementary schools and water-supply, etc. Owing to the default of some of the villagers this object will be frustrated. So, a list of such persons who fail to work half a day in every week may be ordered to be prepared by the patel and the shanbhog and with the approval of the Committee the same may be sent to the Amildar, who may be empowered to